

## “Clean and Unclean: Animals” (Part 1)

Leviticus 11:1-46; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Deuteronomy 14:1-21; Mark 7:15-19; Romans 14:17-21

- Introduction to Leviticus 11-15
  - Holiness encompasses the whole of life, it always has and it always will. God reigns over every aspect of my life and is to be served and glorified at all times in all places (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 1:15-17).
  - As we look at these chapters we should not find it weird that we see the subjects of food and hygiene/health. These are normal conversations in every culture throughout all time. The proper stewardship of your health, safety, order, and holiness have always been essential topics.
  - These laws are for the enjoyment and reverence of God and for the enjoyment (physical and spiritual) and the respect and honor of one another (reconciliation). The whole law is summed up in these two things (Matthew 22:37-39).
- *Clean and Unclean Animals: Leviticus 11:1-8*
  - Unclean animals were forbidden to be eaten and their carcasses could not be used for economic gain (clothing, wineskins, or multiple uses for their bones, combs).
    - This would ensure these unclean animals would not be hunted (devaluing of the clean animals), that the species would survive and that certain animals would not be brought into the camp that were associated with pagan worship. This points to the importance of being distinct from the neighboring cultures (Deuteronomy 14:1-2).
    - Some of the unclean animals lived in caves and tombs representing death and darkness (sin) and they were carnivores and scavengers, again representing the effects of the fall (sin).
  - Clean animals were the common domestic animals of the day as opposed to the wild animals. Domestic animals represented order and stability (Holiness) and the wild animals represented chaos and disorder (Result of sin). Inside of the camp represented safety and the wilderness represented danger.
    - Clean animals lived in shelters, had protection, were used in sacrifices and had great economic value. They were a provision for the whole of the people representing reconciliation of mankind to one another and the provision of God.
- Clean and Unclean Fish: Leviticus 11:9-12
  - The reasons offered for certain sea creatures being eaten and others being avoided or unclean are as follows: These prohibitions eliminated all of the fish that would have been dangerous to eat (bringing sickness or death). These prohibitions were because of the diet of the fish (eating other dead fish and waste). The deep represented death in that culture, so sea creatures that were in the depths could have been outlawed. Lastly it could be to keep certain sea creatures from going extinct in that area.
- Clean and Unclean Birds, Insects, and Swarming Things: Leviticus 11:13-31
  - No clean birds are listed but the birds that are listed are birds of prey. Birds that lived in the wilderness and killed and fed off the blood of other animals (Leviticus 17:10-11). Also in this culture these animals were associated with demons and the occult.
  - The prohibition on insects and swarming things seems to point to either their chaotic nature, that they are disorderly, they are nocturnal, their diet, or that they do not provide much nutritional value. Both

grasshoppers and locusts have great nutritional value. Also if they had eaten the crops they still provided a source of food.

Holy: To be set aside for the worship and service of God.

Clean: To be fit to be in the presence of God.

Common:

Unclean: Exclusion from the presence of God.

Holy: Spiritual/Eternal life

Clean: Physical Health/Life

Unclean: Physical Death/Unhealthy/Result of Sin/ Spiritual Death

Clean/Unclean: The condition (the state of something in regard to its appearance, quality, or working order) of a person, place, or thing.

Holy/Common: The status (the classification that determines their rights and responsibilities/purposes) of persons, places, objects, and times.

Holy:            Tabernacle            Priests            Sacrificial Animals

Clean: The Camp            Israel            Domesticated Animals

Unclean:        The Wilderness        Gentiles            Wild Animals

Clean + Sanctification/Consecration = Holy

Unclean + Holy = Profaning (Spiritual)      Unclean + Clean = Polluted (Physical)